

The Pileup

Newsletter of the CDXA

A Big Send-Off for Ted and Itice

The Wednesday lunch on the 6th of August was very special, with over 50 CDXAers (most of them pictured below) gathering to spend some time with Ted and Itice Goldthorpe, W4VHF and K4LVV, as they prepare to move to Nashville to be near their family. Many long-time CDXAers, some of whom haven't been to lunch in quite a while, were there for Ted and Itice, including Ken, WA4OBO; Scott, K2SD; Gary, N1GC; Nobby, W4UFO; Gary, K7DO; Don, K4ZA; Wayne, W4HG, and Frank, K4BVQ. Gary, K4MQG; and Ric, AA4SC; both shared some "Teddie Freddie" stories. As for exactly *what* they said, well, you just hadda be there. The celebration included this huge and delicious cake, made especially for the occasion. There are more pictures at the back of the Pileup, and even more on the web site. Ted and Itice: 73, and we'll miss you! ...Please keep in touch!



N4QT	Hal Bouton	President
W4GRW	Bill Fisher	Vice-Pres.
W3ZL	Cliff Wagoner	Sec.-Treas.
K4MD	Joe Simpkins	Cluster Mgr.
W3OA	Dick Williams	Contest Mgr.
W3GQ	Paul Sturpe	W4 QSL Bureau Manager
WB4BXW	Wayne Setzer	Webmaster
NV4A	John Forbus	Editor



CDXA PacketCluster & Other Communication Systems

K4MD (AR Cluster via Telnet)	k4md.no-ip.com
W4DXA (AR Cluster via Telnet)	w4dxa.no-ip.com
CDXA Repeater 147.18 MHz (+600)	W4DXA, Near Fort Mill, SC
World Wide Web Homepage	www.cdxa.org
Wednesday Luncheon (11:30 AM)	Skyland Family Restaurant, 4544 South Boulevard, Charlotte, NC



Don't forget that the Shelby Hamfest will be back at the Cleveland County Fairgrounds on August 30th and 31st. Once again, the pre-registration prize will be a Hy-Gain TH3-MK4 tri-bander. You may remember that last year Ted, W4VHF, took home the TH3-MK4. This year, CDXA will have a booth, and will be raffling off a 7" Lenovo A1000 Android tablet and matching black folio case. Check out the picture. Tickets for the raffle will be \$2.00 each or three for \$5.00. Buy a bunch. It's a good deal for a good cause ...our club! **We are in need of booth volunteers**, so if you can help, please mark your calendar, and sign up on-line at <http://goo.gl/ZKO1tj>.



SEDCO is almost here

This will be the 10th year of the SEDCO Convention, also now known as the W4DXCC. It will be held again in Pigeon Forge, TN on September 26-28. There will be plenty to do, with lots of forums, one featuring Lou, N2TU, telling the K9W story. Check out www.W4DXCC.com for details and get signed up soon to assure you can get a room at the Mainstay Suites where the convention will be held.

The Pileup

Official Newsletter of the Carolina DX Association
Copyright 2014

Published monthly 10 times per year, excluding the months of June and December.

The purpose of the association is to secure for the members the pleasures and benefits of the association of persons having a common interest in Amateur Radio.

Members of the CDXA shall adhere to "The Amateur's Code" as published from time to time in *The ARRL Handbook for Radio Amateurs*, and shall consist of those valid licensed amateur operators having an interest in promoting amateur radio. Long distance communications (DX) is of special interest to members of the association, but said interest is not a requirement of membership.

Yearly dues are \$25.00. A second licensed Amateur family member living in the same household can join for \$5.00 for a total family price of \$30.00 per year. The total price for 3 or more licensed family members living in the same household is only \$35.00 per year. All family members enjoy full member status. Dues are payable annually in December by check or through [the CDXA website](http://theCDXAwebsite.com), to the Secretary/Treasurer:

Cliff Wagoner, W3ZL
P. O. Box 577
Davidson, NC 28036

Address, telephone, and email address changes should be directed to the Secretary/Treasurer at the above address or via email at: jcw53@cornell.edu.

DX King News

Dick Williams, W3OA

Item 1: Full details of our DX King Contest and your chances to win a tablet computer are on page 11 of the [January Pileup](#).

Item 2: Here are the DX King scores I have as of July 31:

Call	Category	Countries	Zones	Total
K5EK	Unlimited	265	40	305
K7BV	Unlimited	249	40	289
W4HG	Unlimited	244	40	284
WA4DT	Unlimited	238	40	278
K8YC	Unlimited	226	39	265
W3GQ	Unlimited	214	38	252
N4PQX	Unlimited	203	40	243
W3ZL	Formula	203	36	239
AA4SC	Unlimited	199	40	239
KZ2I	Unlimited	193	40	233
W4UFO	Unlimited	195	38	233
W7DO	Unlimited	191	39	230
K2SX	Unlimited	171	39	210
N2TU	Unlimited	170	37	207
NV4A	Unlimited	167	38	205
W3OA	Unlimited	159	38	197
K4NC	Unlimited	153	37	190
NK0S	Unlimited	135	36	171
K4DXA	Unlimited	114	31	145
W4WNT	Formula	114	29	143
K4MLD	Formula	104	29	133
W4CWA	Unlimited	84	27	111
K4UWH	Formula	76	25	101

Item 3: Don't forget to send me (w3oa@roadrunner.com) your DX marathon scores as of the last day of each month after your score reaches 100.

Didn't Get Any(almost)

Ed Kuebert, K5EK

Now that I have your attention – our editor recently asked me how I work DX for the DX Marathon. Now for the typical television-like disclaimer, which in this case won't be longer than the real content: *This works for me. It may not be the best or most efficient method; however, I am happy with it for the time being.*

I began writing this article on July 28 when it appeared that it would be the first month that I have not added at least one country to my DX Marathon total. As I sat at my computer typing away, I heard the familiar “Here is the DX you are looking for” from my PC that is connected to my rig and the spotting network. I turned around and noted that C21BN had just been spotted on 17 Meters. I quickly double-clicked on the spot, and my K3 and SteppIR switched to the spotted frequency. As my SteppIR tuned, I rotated it to the proper direction and had to wait for the tuning to complete before making my call. This wait is the largest detriment to the SteppIR technology when compared to a trapped beam antenna. After several attempts he was in the log and the pileup was growing.

The keys to my success or lack thereof in catching needed DX are pretty simple. First and foremost is an understanding XYL who is willing to listen to the computer saying “Here is the DX you are looking for” as it echoes through the house at all times of the day. I rarely leave the computer audio on at night. Second is being smart about operating, and spending a lot of time listening and being quick to react when a new one is found. Third, is a reasonable signal and good location.

Let me try to put all this in perspective. I never started out to win or even participate in the DX Marathon. When I retired, I thought it would be interesting to participate in the DX Challenge. So in 2006 I started with exactly zero credits. I had not made a DXCC submission since the mid 1980s, long before the ARRL computerized DXCC. So all my previous credits did not count for the DX Challenge, and I do not have QSLs or logs from my WB2HJG, WA5VUW, or K3KA days, essentially before 2006. The only credits (a total of 3) I have from before 2006 are from Roger, N4ZC, who as a young lad roamed the Pacific and went to Kure and Midway Islands. He searched his log and found my QSOs. Thanks, Roger! I began submitting DX Marathon logs when I moved to NC in 2009, when I saw that the CDXA had a club competition.

My station has always been pretty simple. I have the only legal (HOA and county permitted) tower and antenna in St. James Plantation and probably the only one in the communities on the NC coast. My antennae are simple: wires on 160 and 80 meters and a 3 element SteppIR with the 30/40 meter attachment up about 55 feet for 30 - 6 meters. The base sits about 6 feet above sea level. My 160 meter inverted L and 80 meter wire vertical have radials that go into the Intra Coastal Waterway swamp. I could put a Beverage out in the swamp, but it would be very maintenance intensive from all the tree limbs that come down during storms. And, I am a bit of a wimp and don't want to challenge the copperheads, cottonmouths, and alligators for the territory. I recently added a magnetic loop antenna for receiving on 160 and 80 meters. The jury is still out on its value, but it has only made a real difference on one occasion - an expensive cost/QSO proposition. I am using a K3 with a subreceiver on 160 - 2 meters. I also use a KPA500/KAT500 amplifier/tuner at about 500 watts, and a P3 Panadapter, which is invaluable for locating calling frequencies in split operations particularly on RTTY, which is only visual rather than audio and visual as on Phone and CW.

In pileups I use the panadapter to locate clear frequencies above/below, depending on which way the DX station is moving, and where he made his last contact. I also pay attention to the DX station's QSO rate. If he is going slow and jumping around, I usually try to stay on a relatively clear frequency and call there. This strategy failed me on the recent ZL9HR DXpedition; I missed them on RTTY.

Being smart about operating is relative. I do not believe that my score and scores in general would be near as high as they are without the spotting network. For example I could not have been listening on 17 meters this morning while I was typing this article. A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who puts out spots and to the cluster operators. Over the years I have learned that all DX clusters are not equal. I assume the operators set up their cluster with different filters that are not obvious to me. I had been logging onto K3NC with the VE7CC application and to W4DXA with my logging program, DX4WIN, to ensure I did not miss many spots. VE7CC just came out with version 3, which allows the user to monitor multiple clusters simultaneously. It is pretty slick as it removes duplicate spots, but you get the odd spot here and there that only one cluster posts.

I make very intensive use of the alarm feature in VE7CC. The alarms, created by the user, are in the VE7CC directory in the alarm.dat file. At the end of a

year I take the alarms that I still have set and add any DX countries that are not prevalent. I do not want alarms going off in January for G, DJ, F, I, etc. For really unique places like Mt. Athos I enter the entire call sign, SV2ASP/a. For the rare countries I enter only the prefix with a wildcard, 4W*, C21*, H4*, etc. I set the alarm for all bands and modes. As I work a country, I immediately delete the alarm. I have my system set up so that when an alarm occurs the computer says "Here is the DX you are looking for", which is different from the new country/band/mode alarm from DX4WIN. In late January I update the alarm list to include anything that is not a DXpedition country that I have not worked. I only add a DXpedition country when it is active so I can check off band/modes as I work them. I should note that I do not pay much attention to the spot comments as I believe they can be very misleading.

Spending a lot of time at the radio is all too easy when one is retired. Another one of my hobbies is photography, and I use my Apple computer, located in my ham shack, for image processing. This way I can listen to the radio/computer and be ready to pounce on spots while I am processing images or doing other computer tasks. For example, I have the K3 tuned to 50.190 Mhz, listening for W1AW/1, with a low audio output while I am typing this.

Again, I have to emphasize a big THANK YOU to the CDXA and other DX cluster operators. They make finding DX much easier than it was 30 years ago. Utilizing the spotting network to its fullest is important to me as it enables me to get to the DX early before the pileup really gets going. That way I have a readable signal at the other end, and am not part of the noise level fighting to be heard. If you do not have a dominant signal **the key is to get there early before the pileup really builds** – just common sense. If you want a copy of my alarm.dat file now or anytime in the future, let me know. It only works with the VE7CC software, but I will be glad to share it. If you'd like to visit my ham shack and play some golf, I can help to arrange it, although I don't play golf any longer.

I will continue to work on the DX Challenge, and I have 2716 worked and 2712 confirmed. There are two that I will probably never see a QSL, from and I have a recent EZ QSL that does not count, but I will keep trying and participating in the DX Marathon. The next step is to convince my XYL to let me move the ham shack downstairs so I don't have to run up the stairs every time I hear "Here is the DX you are looking for".

Ed. Note: Thanks to Ed for sharing this. And thanks to his XYL for being so understanding.

The CDXA Fall BBQ

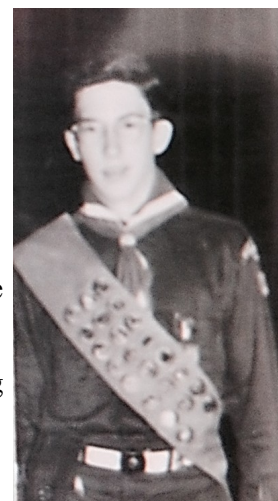
Don't worry, there's plenty of summer left, but the plans for the annual fall BBQ are coming together, and there's nothing wrong with planning ahead. We're heading back to Ken and Beverly Boyd's spacious back yard this year, and Chef Ric, AA4SC will be doing the grilling again too. The date: Saturday, Oct. 11. The time: 2100Z. ...That's 5pm, ya'll. More details will follow.



The Wayback Machine

Last month, the Wayback Machine featured a "Mystery" picture, which was correctly identified by several members as the landing at Navassa Island. Congrats and thanks to (in the order in which the answers were received) Steve, KZ2I ; Bob, N4PQX; Ed, K5EK; and Roy WA4DOU (who answered the question in the CDXA Digest, and kinda brought the "contest" to a halt. Hi!) Guys, your "prize" is the fame associated with being in the *Pileup*. I hope that doesn't keep people from taking a stab at this month's "Mystery" picture. I think this one just might be a little harder. Anybody know who this young Boy Scout is? The picture is a little too fuzzy to tell if there's a Radio Merit Badge on that sash.

Also, here's a memory from Ed, K5EK, triggered by Cliff, W3ZL's memories in last month's *Pileup* of his visit to the NYC FCC office: "I really liked Cliff's article because that is where I took my General test in 1963. It is/ was the Whitehall Building and the examiner's name was Mr. Finkleman. Not sure I have spelled it correctly. I was so good with cw I got to go back for a second try and did finally pass. My parents were (upset) when I did not pass the first time because I had to take a day off from school and the train fare was expensive from out on Long Island. Both times I spent the afternoon roaming around Radio Row on Courtland St."



CDXA Scores in 2014 ARRL International DX CW Contest

Dick Williams, W3OA

The final results of this year's ARRL International DX CW contest have been published. Listed below, in alphabetical order, are the CDXA members who contributed to CDXA's club score and scored in the top half of their class. The last column shows the entrant's place in his class in the geographic area shown and the number of entrants in that class from that area.

We hope to have the results of the ARRL phone contest in next month's Pileup. At that time we should also know how we did in the Affiliated Club Competition.

Call	Final Score	Area	Class	Place/No in Class
K2SD	462,960	North Carolina	Single Op, Assisted, High Power	10/21
K5EK	2,191,164	North Carolina		2/21
K7BV	2,793,780	North Carolina	Single Op, Assisted, High Power	1/21
N4PQX	634,410	North Carolina	Single Op, Assisted, High Power	7/21
W3GQ	1,940,301	North Carolina	Single Op, Assisted, High Power	3/21
W3OA	1,638,978	North Carolina	Single Op, Assisted, High Power	4/21
W3ZL	356,616	North Carolina	Single Op, Assisted, Low Power	1/10
W4CWA	69,564	North Carolina	Single Op, Assisted, Low Power	5/10
W4LM	435,240	North Carolina	Single Op, High Power	6/15
W4NZC	111,750	North Carolina	Single Op, Assisted, Low Power	3/10
W4ZV	1,938	North Carolina	Single Op, Single Band - 160	1/1
W7DO	1,377,720	South Carolina	Single Op, Assisted, Low Power	1/3

ARRL National Centennial Convention 2014

The word from CDXA members who attended the ARRL National Convention last month is that it was well worth attending, with excellent forums and lots to see and do. Ed, K5EK, attended, and made some photos, including the couple shown here, showing W1AW and the ARRL sign at the Connecticut Convention Center. You can go [here](#) for a look at lots more of Ed's pictures. (Thanks, Ed!)



VHF Contesting with the Big Guns

Here's a look at the recent CQ WW VHF Contest from the perspective of a relatively new tester, Paul Jones, K4VCF, shown in the picture on the right.. Thanks for your insights Paul. Ed.

The weekend of July 18-20 was my first major contesting experience. I joined the seasoned veterans from CDXA who drove to the top of a 4700-4800 foot mountain in the Boone area to work the CQ WW VHF Contest on 2M SSB, 6MM SSB, and FM Simplex. The latter was my assignment where I, the newbie, should do the least damage to the overall score. I confess, this was the correct assignment, because I am not really secure when it comes to getting call signs correct on the first pass – not always, though.

Bill “Rapid Fire” Fisher, W4GRW, took my notepad and pen, forcing me to the laptop keyboard, actually breaking a bad habit I started when I got my first HF rig (Kenwood 590TS). I survived the trauma of not having my comfort pad and pen.

My hat is off to those seasoned Hams who have experienced harsh conditions here in the U.S. and abroad working contests and DXpeditions, because I experienced a taste of unpleasant weather while helping to crank up towers and run up antennas. After we arrived Friday and woofed down a BBQ sandwich, we set about the tasks required to get ready for the contest on Saturday and Sunday. Rain and fog are not my cup of tea. I suspect the veteran hams never put rain, fog, and 55 degree temperatures in July as an item for their bucket list. I was happy to have my heavy duty poncho along with extra socks and shoes at the end of the day and weekend.

Saturday morning, I learned Dick Williams, W3OA, is in pretty good shape when we walked up a steep grade from our nearby quarters to the 2M shack site. On reaching the top, an oxygen tank would have been welcomed by me. It was good to catch my breath after a few minutes. I do not believe Dick had to take a single deep breath. Actually, we lost count of the number of trips he made up and down the side of the mountain tweaking everything, which included the wireless setup that seemed to work sometimes only when Dick walked in the door. After my first trip walking up to the 2M site, I learned to take the trip in stages – two – to avoid having to be carried off the mountain on a gurney – or in a box.

We were fortunate to get a break in the weather Sunday and saw some beautiful mountain scenery from our lodging accommodations. We were looking down on the

clouds and across at Grandfather Mountain and well-known ski resorts in the greater Boone/Linville area.



Working FM Simplex was an eye-opener. I had no idea so many people park on certain Simplex frequencies. We had promoted we would be calling on 146.550 and made 24 contacts in first 25 minutes of the contest. Most of those came from the Metrolina region. We occasionally called on 146.490 and 146.880 and surprisingly – to me that is – there were people parked on those frequencies. We made 124 contacts during the contest period, surpassing the goal of 100 contacts. *We would have done a little better had I not had an issue with one ham who tried to claim 146.550 belonged to him. Even after I asked “Is the frequency clear” and hearing no response, the individual kept calling “CQ, CQ, Contest” doubling some of those trying to check in with us. After calling the ham direct, he could not appreciate the fact he did not own the frequency.*

We were happy the weather gave us a break on Sunday because the forecast was for more rain during the afternoon. Thanks to the weatherman for being wrong.

I had a chance to work 2M SSB, but made few contacts because I have trouble picking out the call sign from noise. My attempt at 6M was a bust. From what I understand, the two contacts I barely heard were via meteor scatter – here now and

I appreciated the opportunity to work the CQ contest with the team, which was a tremendous learning experience for me, as is everything I do or try to do in ham radio. I enjoyed contesting, although I prefer the way some CDXAers operate on Field Day – in the harsh conditions of AC, with appropriate adult beverages, protein and plenty of snacks. Tom “here come da judge” Moore, K4DRV, joined the team Saturday afternoon, taking time from a visit with friends in Blowing Rock.

I want to express my appreciation to Dick Williams, W3OA; Bill Turner, W4WNT; Chris Price, WW4CP; Eric Sossoman, K4CEB; and Bill “Rapid Fire” Fisher, W4GRW; for putting up with the newbie. I learned from each one, and some of the war stories, alone, were worth the trip to Boone

(cont. on page 7)

(cont. from page 6)

Finally, it should be noted that there really ARE wild animals in the Boone area. Bill and I saw a small Black Bear when we were nearing the foot of the mountain as we were driving into the town. Why did theBear....cross the road?

73, Paul Jones
K4VCF



The Team, including K4VCF, W4WNT,
W4GRW, W3OA, and WW4CP

ARRL DXCC and Awards Manager Bill Moore, NC1L, Recuperating Fol- lowing Accident

As many of you know, Bill, NC1L, was seriously injured in an auto accident on July 3. He suffered a broken neck and other injuries and is paralyzed from the chest down. CDXA is sending him a large version (8 1/2 x 11) of the card shown here. If you'd like to send him a QSL card, get-well card, etc., his address is:

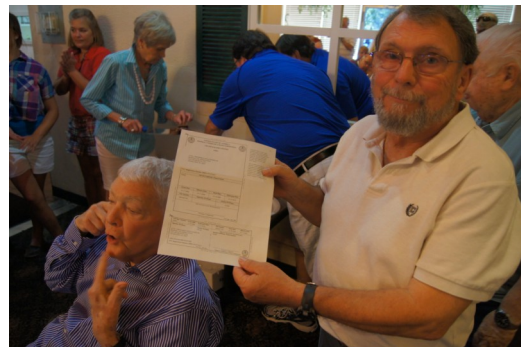
Bill Moore, NC1L, 92 Reservoir Rd, Newington,
CT 06111.



...But wait there's more ...pictures from the Wed. lunch with Ted and Itice



Ted, in a
moment
of reflec-
tion



Ken show-
ing off a
very special
license, for
the
"Roswell
DX Club"
donated to
CDXA by
Ted



"Gee, Itice,
that's a small
piece of
cake."



...Old Friends!

The Back Page

- Long-time CDXAers Ted and Itice Goldthorpe, W4VHF and K4LVV, got a big sendoff at a recent Wednesday lunch.. See Pages 1 and 7 for pictures of the event.
- The Shelby Hamfest is the 30th and 31st of August. CDXA will have a booth, and is looking for volunteers. Sign up at <http://goo.gl/ZKO1tj>.
- Don't forget that SEDCO is coming on September 26-28, and the CDXA BBQ on Oct. 11.
- Wonder how Ed, K5EK, does so well each year in the CDXA DX King contest? Read his "secrets" starting on Page 3. Thank, Ed!
- ARRL has published the scores for the 2014 International CW DX Contest. See how CDXAers did on Page 5.
- For a fresh perspective of operating as part of a contest team, be sure to read the funny and insightful article by Paul, K4VCF, about joining the VHF contesting team on "the Mountain" for last month's CQ VHF WW Contest.
- CDXA has sent a card to Bill, NC1L; the ARRL DXCC Manager, who's recovering from a very serious auto accident. I'm sure Bill would also like to hear individually from our members. His address is on Page 7.

Cliff Wagoner, W3ZL
P. O. Box 577
Davidson, NC 28036
jcw53@cornell.edu

First Class Mail

See something wrong with your address label? Notify W3ZL at once, please.